



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

**Public Health**

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November 8, 2013

TO: Each Supervisor

FROM: Jonathan E. Fielding, M.D., M.P.H. *JEFielding MD*  
Director and Health Officer

SUBJECT: **UPDATE ON TUBERCULOSIS IN LOS ANGELES COUNTY**

This is an update on tuberculosis (TB) cases in Los Angeles County (LAC), including among homeless community members in the downtown/Skid Row area. The last report on TB cases was sent to your Board on November 1, 2013, based on data as of September 19, 2013. At that time, the Department of Public Health (DPH) reported 254 cases with 23 cases identified in the homeless population throughout LAC, including Skid Row. Since the last data reporting period, the DPH Tuberculosis Control Program (TCP) has conducted intensified efforts to confirm TB cases, which is a common activity for data reporting purposes towards the end of each calendar year. As of November 5, 2013, a total of 443 TB cases have been confirmed in LAC, with a total of 44 cases identified in the homeless population throughout LAC, including Skid Row.

TB cases are tracked and reported based on calendar year, with final data reporting for calendar year 2013 anticipated in March 2014. The time to confirm a TB case can be lengthy and includes: identification of a suspect case of active TB, diagnostic testing such as chest X-rays and sputum cultures that require significant linear time for the laboratory to grow and analyze, and then making a determination if the case meets the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) confirmation criteria.

The final number of new cases identified this year will reflect our intensified contact investigation and case finding.

If you have any questions or would like additional information, please let me know.

JEF:dd/rkf  
PH:1303:001

c: Chief Executive Officer  
County Counsel  
Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors